THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The section capacity is being augmented by introduction of Automatic Block Signalling system in Ahmedabad-Mumbai section. However, in Phase-I, the work of 3rd line from Surat-Kosamba has been included in the Budget, which has been accorded lower priority in view of Automatic Block Signalling work.

Stay orders by caterers and vendors

1445. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details with name of stations (division-wise) on each zonal Railways where the catering/vending contractors have obtained stay orders from different Courts of Law against the decision of enhancement of the licence fee from 3 per cent to 12 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): Court cases on enhancement of licence fees are being contested by the Zonal Railways. The details with name of stations (Division-wise) on each Zonal Railway are not being maintained in Board's office.

Pension plan for railway employees

1446. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted a redefined contribution-based pension-plan for railway employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the new pension plan, and how it is different from the previous pension plan for railway employees and modifications introduced in the new plan, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has accepted that future entrants to Railway service will be governed by a contribution-based pension plan which would be applicable

to all Central Government Employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any New Scheme for Railway employees would also be based on the New Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Central Government employees.

(b) The Railway employees are governed by the Pension Scheme formulated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal department of the Government of India on pension policy matters under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The details of the New Pension Scheme, base on defined contribution and how it is different from the previous plan for Railway Employees, are not known to the Ministry of Railways as a final decision in this respect is yet to be taken by the Central Government.

Works under Central Road Fund

1447. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways Safety Fund created in 2001 is supposed to finance manning of unmanned level crossings and conversion of level crossing into road over/under bridges;

(b) whether funds received from Central Road Fund from 1999 to 2002 were not fully utilized for the specified purposes and whether a huge balance of Rs. 393.00 crores was kept unused at the end of 2001-2002; and

(c) whether a large number of such works under the CRF are still pending to be executed in Kanataka, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Safety Fund is used to fund road safety works including manning of unmanned level crossings and conversion of level crossings into Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges.

(b) The closing balance in the Fund as on 31.3.02 was Rs. 392.03 crore.